

CLAIMS

1. Method for preparing an aqueous peptide extract of maca, characterized in that it is conducted using a powder of  
5 ground maca tubers, in that it comprises at least one enzymatic hydrolysis step of the proteins.

2. Method for preparing a hydrosoluble peptide extract of maca tubers as in claim 1, characterized in that hydrolysis  
10 is of enzymatic type.

3. Method for preparing a hydrosoluble peptide extract of maca tubers as in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that hydrolysis is conducted with an amylase and protease mixture.  
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4. Method for preparing a hydrosoluble peptide extract of maca tubers as in any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the amylase/protease ratio varies between 50/50 and 90/10.  
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5. Method as in any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the aqueous extract is then concentrated to remove insolubles.

25 6. Method as in any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the aqueous extract is then purified by ultrafiltration.

7. Method as in claim 6, characterized in that ultrafiltration has a cut-off threshold of 10 kD.  
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8. Aqueous peptide extract of maca obtained using the method in any of claims 1 to 7.

9. Aqueous peptide extract of maca as in claim 8,  
35 characterized in that it has a dry matter content of between 1 and 300 g/l, preferably between 2 and 10 g/l.

10. Method for preparing a solid peptide extract of maca, characterized in that the aqueous peptide extract as in claim 8 or 9, optionally concentrated and/or sterilised, is freeze-dried.

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11. Solid peptide extract of maca obtained using the method as in claim 10.

12. Solid peptide extract of maca as in claim 11, characterized in that the content of alpha amino nitrogen lies between 2 and 70 %.

13. Solid peptide extract of maca as in claim 11 or 12, characterized in that it has the following amino acid composition (as a weight percentage with respect to the total weight of the amino acids):

Alanine	5-9 %
Arginine	15-20 %
Aspartic acid	8-12 %
Cystine-cysteine	< 2 %
Glutamic acid	9-15 %
Glycine	3-7 %
Histidine	1-6 %
Isoleucine	2-7 %
Leucine	4-9 %
Lysine	3-7 %
Methionine	1-5 %
Phenylalanine	4.9 %
Proline	< 1 %
Serine	2-8 %
Threonine	1-7 %
Tyrosine	1-7 %
Valine	4-10 %
Tryptophane	< 0.5 %

14. Peptide extract of maca as in any of claims 8 or 9 and 11 to 13, which can be used to stimulate the proliferation and growth of skin cells and more particularly of fibroblasts.

5        15. Peptide extract of maca as in any of claims 8 or 9 and 11 to 13, which can be used to stimulate the mitochondrial activity of skin cells and more particularly of fibroblasts.

10       16. Cosmetic composition characterized in that it contains a peptide extract of maca as in any of claims 8 or 9 and 11 to 13 and at least one cosmetically acceptable excipient.

15       17. Cosmetic treatment method to prevent and/or combat skin ageing, characterized in that it consists of applying to the skin a composition as in claim 16.

20       18. Cosmetic treatment method to combat outside aggressions chosen from sun, tobacco, pollution and stress characterized in that it consists of applying to the skin a composition as in claim 16.

25       19. Use of an extract as in any of claims 8 or 9 and 11 to 13 as anti-ageing active agent.

20       20. Use as in claim 19 to stimulate cell metabolism especially of the dermal fibroblasts.

30       21. Use as in claim 19 to stimulate cell energy.

22. Use of an extract as in any of claims 8 or 9 and 11 to 13 as active agent to combat loss of tonicity and/or elasticity of the skin and/or to combat the onset of senescence pigment blemishes.